



# Water Quality NewsFlash

Published by California Department of Transportation, Division of Environmental Analysis, Office of Storm Water Policy

September 4, 2006

Number 06-36

**CASQA – Second annual conference** – The California Stormwater Quality Association (CASQA) assists municipalities, special districts, and businesses, as well as government agencies, in developing and implementing stormwater management programs. The annual conference (Sept. 25 – 27) includes one day of preconference workshops and two days with four tracks of presentations under the themes of treatment, operations, research, and management. Topics range from protection of Areas of Special Biological Significance to impacts of storm water infiltration. More information: <http://stormwaterconference.com/theme/>

**California Coastal Cleanup Day – September 16<sup>th</sup>** – Every year volunteers at 700 cleanup sites pick up trash along the California coast and also in each inland county. An estimated 10 million pounds of debris has been removed since the effort started in 1985. Caltrans is participating at several sites. Signup at: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/ccd2.html>

**Watsonville Slough – TMDL paired with removal of beneficial use** – The State Board this fall will consider a TMDL approved by the Central Coast Region to establish a Watsonville Slough Total Maximum Daily Load for pathogens. The State Board will concurrently consider removing the shellfish harvesting beneficial use (designated SHELL) from Watsonville Slough and its tributaries. The bacteria objectives for the shellfish harvesting beneficial use are much more restrictive than the bacteria objectives for water contact sports (REC-1). Removing or downgrading a beneficial use is difficult procedurally and occurs infrequently. The action must be supported by the findings of a Use Attainability Analysis. In this case, the UAA concluded that attainment of the SHELL beneficial use was precluded by factors unrelated to water quality such as hydrologic modifications.

Some states have developed beneficial use classifications which take into account wet weather events. In California, UAAs are being considered where attainment of beneficial uses appears infeasible. As discussed in *NewsFlash 05-07*, the State Board reversed a decision by the LA Regional Board and approved a limited downgrading of some recreational beneficial uses in Ballona Creek.

For Watsonville Slough documents see the RB3 section at <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/tmdl/tmdl.html>; Attachment C is the UAA.

**Sediment Standards – Technical documents posted** – *NewsFlash 06-37* noted that the State Water Resources Control Board has posted the CEQA scoping document for the development of sediment quality objectives. The Board has now posted documents used by the Scientific Steering Committee: <http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bptcp/sqoscientific.html#2006>. Particularly useful is the March 2006 policy and program overview: [http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bptcp/docs/sqoscientific/2006/march/pres\\_policy.pdf](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/bptcp/docs/sqoscientific/2006/march/pres_policy.pdf)

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